

Flight Jacket

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Marine Corps Air Station Miramar

March 2, 2001

'Desert Scorpion' tests 3rd LAAD readiness

By Cpl. Scott Whittington

CPAO, MCAS Miramar

MARINE CORPS BASE, Camp Pendleton – The 3rd Low Altitude Air Defense Battalion here journeyed out into the field for Exercise Desert Scorpion, a biannual exercise to measure the unit's readiness to embark equipment, deploy and conduct air defense.

This is the fourth Desert Scorpion and the exercise began Feb. 13th with the battalion setting up air-defense positions. Helicopters from Marine Light-Attack Helicopter Squadron 367 posed as enemy helicopters, attacking two combat service support detachments, a helo-outlined field and combat town here.

The battalion spent three days targeting the invading helicopters and simulating their destruction. They can fire Stinger missiles from either mobile Avenger weapons or a man-portable air defense system. An Avenger weapons system is mounted on a vehicle while the MPAD is shoulder fired.

"We want to be of use for the Marine Air Ground Task Force commander even after all the planes have been shot down," said Maj. Jeff Davis, operations officer, 3rd LAAD.

After a LAAD battalion accomplishes this and once infantry units have secured a town, 3rd LAAD battalion can move in and take the place of infantry units to provide security for fleeing refugees there, according to Davis.

The next part of the training, the battalion moved into Area 25 Combat Town here. The town simulated a small village in the Asian-Pacific region. Battalion members posed as natives.

Once the Marines arrived, they established rapport with the villagers. The chief met the senior Marine. The lieutenant explained to the chief why they were there. The Marines were in the simulated town to provide humanitarian support for fleeing refugees.



A 3rd LAAD Marine patrols through combat town during exercise Desert Scorpion. The town was a simulated refugee site the Marines were protecting. Photo by Cpl. Scott Whittington

"One thing we learned is that you're not always a Stinger gunner," said Sgt. Matthew W. Smith, section leader, Battery A, 3rd LAAD and Fort Smith, Ark. native. "You have to be a basic rifleman."

Throughout the scenarios, members of the enemy attacked patrols and the Marines' command center. The scenarios also included a lost child, a drunken man, riots, thieves and beggars. All of which, villagers made contact with Marines.

"We want to have trained for it, if we may be asked to

do it," said Davis.

In a real-world scenario, it is possible for Marines to provide humanitarian support, patrol for enemy and take fire all within the same town.

"It's hard to find out who's friendly and who's not," said 1st Lt. Tracey Morris, platoon commander, Battery A, 3rd LAAD.

Because determination of a friend or foe is difficult, everyone is considered a possible threat and is treated with extreme caution.

See LAAD, page 11

Ridgerunners prepare for six-month deployment

By Cpl. Rob Henderson

CPAO, MCAS Miramar

A helicopter squadron here is beginning workups for an upcoming deployment with the 15th Marine Expeditionary Unit on the USS Pelelieu.

Marine Medium Helicopter Squadron 163 has started preparing for the MEU by joining forces with Marine Heavy Helicopter Squadron 464 and Marine Light-Attack Helicopter Squadron 369 from Marine Corps Base Camp Pendleton.

The CH-46E "Sea Knight" squadron will leave for the deployment in August. That gives the squadron six months to develop a professional working relationship with the other units assigned to the MEU.

"The additional aircraft joined us so we can train with them here. We'll all work with the ground units and other supporting units to test our capabilities before the deployment in August. Our mission is solely working up to the deployment. We are training on all fronts right

now, because every scenario we could encounter while deployed will require a different kind of flight," said Sgt. Clifton A. Hargus, crew chief, HMM-163 and Dallas native.

HMM-464 will provide CH-53E helicopters to handle the heavy lifting that might need to be performed while on deployment. The AH-1W "Super Cobra" and UH-1N "Huey" helicopters of HMLA-369 will provide security and support for the Marines on the ground, said Hargus.

The composite squadron will be taking part in refueling exercises, mountain area qualifications, AR-5 gas mask flights, and urban-terrain-flying missions, said 1st Lt. Jonathan F. Brown, Safety Officer, HMM-163.

"I am really looking forward to the deployment," said Waco, Texas native, Lance Cpl. Shane Furlong, "but there is a lot of pre-deployment training to accomplish. We don't want to be surprised, and we don't want to be embarrassed. That's why these workups are necessary — to avoid any surprises."



Lance Cpl. Shane Furlong, crew chief, HMM-163, prepares a CH-46E for a phase inspection. The Ridgerunners are preparing to deploy for six months with the 15th MEU. Photo by Cpl. Rob Henderson

3d MAW holds African-American History Celebration

By Cpl. Mike Camacho

CPAO, MCAS Miramar

Numerous Marines and distinguished guests gathered to celebrate, remember and recognize the accomplishments of blacks in the Marine Corps and Navy Feb. 27 in the Station Theater here.

"What this occasion does, is allow us to look at our own heritage," said Maj. Gen. Charles F. Bolden, Jr., commanding general, 3d Marine Aircraft Wing, and guest speaker. "It makes no difference what color you are, this is your legacy as Marines."

The celebration began with a video that highlighted significant accomplishments by black Marines, which included such highlights as the Montford Point Marines and the first black woman officer in the Marine Corps.

The sentiment echoed by many of the speakers was that this is not just black history – it's the history of the Marines who have gone before the Marines serving the nation today.

"Smedley Butler wasn't an African-American, but does that not mean that his contributions don't have an effect on our culture in the Marine Corps?" said Maj. Gen. Bolden. "Was Dan Daly black?"

Gunnery Sgt. Kimberlee Williams, 3d MAW equal opportunity advisor and the event's coordinator, said that she hopes that every Marine who attended the celebration walked away with the attitude that they can make a difference. "This is the best part of my job, because I get to share culture, diversity and history to Marines of all ethnic backgrounds," she said.

Several former Marines from the Montford Point Marine Association, both San Diego and Los Angeles Chapters, were on hand for a special presentation that recognized the history of Montford Point.

"It is important to remember the Marines who set the precedence for equality in the Marine Corps today," said retired Master Gunnery Sgt. Nathaniel R. Hosea, Los Angeles Chapter president.

"I learned a lot about the Montford Point Marines that I never knew before," said Pfc. Matt Witz, Marine Aircraft Group 11 supply clerk. "We learn from day one, that there is no color in the Marine Corps, only green, and this shows how it isn't just black history, but Marine Corps history."

The event was also very musical. During several occasions, spiritual and inspirational music was sung and played.

Chaplain Miles Clarke, Marine Wing Support Squadron 373 chaplain, spoke about how he feels religion played a key role in leading blacks in their success today.

The celebration concluded by reflecting on how far the Marine Corps has come. Williams read Letter Of Instruction number 421 that was written May 14,

1948. The letter illustrated the Marine Corps view on how to deal with black Marines in the beginning of their integration into the Marine Corps.

"We need to remember our history," said Maj. Gen. Bolden. "If we don't, we are destined to repeat the problems we've had before," the general added.



Thomas H. McPhatter, prior Marine, retired Navy Captain and founding president of the Montford Point Marine Association, San Diego Chapter, speaks to an audience at the African-American History Celebration Wednesday at the station theater.
Photo by Cpl. Mike Camacho



NMCRS kicks off

Maj. Gen. Charles F. Bolden Jr., 3d MAW commanding general, speaks to commanders and senior staff non-commissioned officers on the importance of making donations to the Navy-Marine Corps Relief Society during the NMCRS kick off Wednesday at the officers' club. Other speakers also included Miramar's Ann W. Evans, NMCRS director and Maj. Gen. William G. Bowdon, commander, MCABWA. Evans gave examples of different situations where Marines in need found assistance in NMCRS. Maj. Gen. Bolden urged the attendees to inform 100 percent of their Marines. *Photo by Cpl. Mike Camacho*

Flight Jacket



**Maj. Gen.
Charles F.
Bolden Jr.**

*Commanding
General
3d Marine Aircraft Wing*

**Maj. Gen.
William G.
Bowdon**

*Commander,
Marine Corps Air Bases
Western Area*

Maj. T.V. Johnson
Director, Public Affairs Office

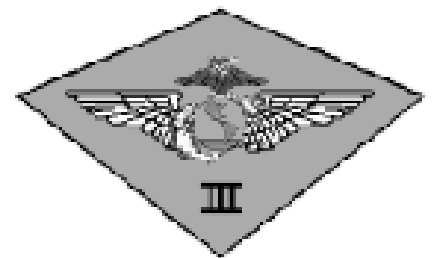
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Mir
Remarks

Where were you 10 years ago
at the beginning of the
Gulf War?



"I was aboard the USS Raleigh with the 4th Marine Expeditionary Brigade assigned to 1st Battalion, 10th Marines and we were on our way over there. We were the first large unit from Camp Lejeune to depart to the Middle East."

Maj. Euseekers Williams Jr.
executive officer
HMH-462



"I was real young at the time, but I can remember my curiosity for the Marines. I think that's when I really wanted to know what it was like to be a Marine."

Lance Cpl. Eric L. Pierce
ground support equipment technician
MALS-11



"I was a lieutenant commander at the time and was stationed at Naval Air Station Lemoore. I would have love to have gone, but I just came off the USS Constellation and they weren't going to send me."

Cmdr. Don C. Johnson
USN, retired

Issues resolved at 'meeting of the minds'

By Sgt. Maj. Stephen H. Mellinger

Marine Forces Pacific Sergeant Major

CAMP H.M. SMITH, Hawaii — Recently, Camp Pendleton hosted the latest Executive Off Site. The EOS is conducted by the Commandant of the Marine Corps every three months. The commandant brings together his senior general officers and senior civilian employees for a three-day 'meeting of the minds.'

The Sergeant Major of the Marine Corps also meets with the three Force sergeants major (Pacific, Atlantic, and Reserve), along with Marine Corps Combat Development Command and Manpower & Reserve Affairs sergeants major.

To all the Marines, who supported this important event, thank you for working throughout the long weekend and being such professionals.

I was very impressed with the number of issues that got resolved at this gathering, which greatly impact not only individual Marines, but also our Corps as a whole. The commandant and sergeant major of the Marine Corps listened to every issue and concern brought to the table. They both were eager to engage in the issues that would pro-

vide the best care for Marines.

Although not everything discussed or recommended to the commandant was resolved, it's important each of you know that he is dedicated to ensuring that our Corps (and its Marines) be provided for both now and in the future.

Below are some of the issues and recommendations discussed and some of the commandant's guidance.

Safety — For the first quarter of fiscal year 2001, the Corps experienced a 68 percent decrease in privately owned vehicle traffic deaths when compared to the same period last year. This is great news for all of us. It shows our commands' safety message to Marines is on target and being received by more Marines. However, our safety education efforts must continue because we don't want to lose even one Marine to a preventable vehicle death.

Equal Opportunity Advisors (EOA) — The Marine Corps needs volunteers to fill numerous EOA billet vacancies. This is an all-volunteer force within our Corps where Marines step out of their MOS to serve as an EOA. The primary qualification is that Marines who volunteer for this program are dedicated to the fair and equal treatment of

all Marines. This program is open to all Marines regardless of ethnicity, religion, or gender. Interested Marines should contact their EOA or career planner for details. They can get you pointed in the right direction to apply for this important program.

Operating Forces' Staff Noncommissioned Officer Meritorious Promotions — It was recommended that meritorious promotion quotas, to the ranks of staff sergeant and gunnery sergeant, be given at the Marine Forces level. Currently the only sergeants and staff sergeants are able to compete for meritorious promotions are "B" billets (recruiting duty, drill field, and Marine Security Guards) and those within the Marine Expeditionary Forces. This would enable qualified base and station Marines to compete for the same meritorious promotion allocations currently only afforded to the MEFs. By changing this policy, it will reinforce the importance of Marines serving in the 5th element of the Marine Air-Ground Task Force. I hope to see this changed in the next meritorious promotion allocation message from HQMC.

California Utility Costs — I briefed the

See **SgtMaj**, page 4

Ducking Colors is un-Marine

By Cpl. Rob Henderson

CPAO, MCAS Miramar

During an Iraqi protest in the streets of Baghdad recently, a young Iraqi man drenched an American flag in gasoline, produced a lighter, and promptly sent Old Glory up in flames. As any blue-blooded American would be, I was upset by the image, and as a Marine, I was outraged.

Then I drew an interesting parallel between the flag burning and another scene I had witnessed earlier in the week.

I was driving past the barracks here as colors began to play. I pulled my car to the side of the road, waited for colors to end, and witnessed some of the most un-Marine-like behavior I have ever seen.

Marines, in uniform, were actually running indoors to avoid Colors. Again, I was upset by the image.

Disrespect is disrespect; no matter what form it comes in.

The American flag represents every ideal that our nation has built its foundation upon. Freedom, justice, and the pursuit of happiness are just a few of the bedrock principles personified by the flag. Countless lives have been selflessly sacrificed so that the American flag can wave its message of liberty over future generations of Americans.

Any Marine can look at Joe Rosenthal's picture of the flag raising over Mount Suribachi with pride. The picture is a visible reminder of the price of freedom. When the Stars and Stripes was raised by battle-weary Marines and a corpsman, it signified the commitment those Marines made to protect the American way of life. Is that a symbol you are willing to disrespect?

If the answer is no, why would you duck the Colors Ceremony? Marines, who are disrespectful enough to run from Colors, might as well be standing in Baghdad burning our flag with the Iraqi protestors.

NOW TELL US WHAT YOU THINK

The newspaper staff encourages Marines to submit commentaries, editorials or other articles or photographs. Story submissions can be sent by mail to: FJ Editor, H&HS PAO PO Box 452013, San Diego, CA 92145; by fax to 577-6001 ATTN: FJ Editor; or by e-mail to foley@miramar.usmc.mil.

The opinions expressed on this page are just that, opinions, not necessarily the opinion of the government, the Department of Defense, the Marine Corps or Marine Corps Air Station Miramar.

Ad Space

Welcome to your new lifestyle

By Michelle Osborn

L.I.N.K.S. MCAS Miramar

What a glorious day! You’ve married a Marine and life is looking good. Now, proudly standing on the “x” mark at the Joint Resource Center, your picture is being taken for your military family member identification card.

This little plastic card is your first step into the Marine Corps community and while it certainly is a reason to celebrate, it unfortunately does not come with any instructions.

So, take a good look at your ID card. On the front at the very bottom are the words, “Identification and Privilege Card.” Do you realize that as a Marine spouse, you have privileges that you did not have before marrying your Marine?

You now have the privilege of shopping, banking, bowling, and buying gas on the air station. You can workout at the gym, rent recreational equipment, see free movies, check out books from the library, get your taxes done for free or play bingo. You have access to medical, dental, legal, educational, counseling and support services. Among the many privileges

that you may responsibly enjoy as a Marine spouse, attending a L.I.N.K.S. session should be at the top of your list.

So, what is L.I.N.K.S.?

L.I.N.K.S. stands for Lifestyle, Insights, Networking, Knowledge and Skills. Marine Corps Family Team Building is a unique L.I.N.K.S. mentoring program designed to introduce spouses to the Marine Corps, its history, lifestyle and available resources.

The program is presented in a casual setting and everything, including childcare and refreshments, is free of charge.

All Marine Corps spouses are invited and encouraged to attend.

The subject of available resources and privileges is just one of seven very important, spouse-related topics that are presented and discussed at a L.I.N.K.S. session.

The next session is scheduled for Saturday, March 10, from 8:30 a.m. to 5p.m.

For more information or to register for the next session, please call the L.I.N.K.S. office today at 577-4810.

SgtMaj.
continued from page 3

*Mellinger tells what's new
in your Marine Corps*

sky-rocketing electricity and natural gas prices faced by our southern California bases and stations, along with individual Marines and Sailors. Leadership understands that the Basic Allowance for Housing (currently adjusted yearly) is not keeping up with living expenses for servicemembers living off base. Possible financial relief along with other solutions to improve the quality of life for Marines living off base, are being looked at.

Sergeant Major Course - A formal sergeants major course (along the lines of what we currently have for new first sergeants) is in the planning stages.

Sergeant Major of the Marine Corps NCO Symposium – SgtMaj. Alford L. McMichael announced dates for the 2001 NCO Symposium to be held at Headquarters Marine Corps. The dates are 21-25 April. Each command, base and station within Marine Forces Pacific were given quotas for this. Interested hard-charging sergeants and corporals should contact their sergeant major (via your chain of command). This is a great venue for our NCOs to present ideas and recommendations to both the commandant and the Sergeant Major of the Marine Corps.

Dress Blue/White Uniform - The recommendation was that this uniform be authorized for wear by SNCOs only. It was also recommended the white trousers be an optional item for SNCOs.

Indefinite EAS ID Cards for SNCOs – It was recommended we maintain our current policy on ID cards and not go to an indefinite EAS ID for any Staff NCO rank. The commandant asked for more details on a few options for this issue before he makes a decision.

Unit Deployment Program Per Diem - The commandant made it very clear that he expected every Marine (officer/enlisted, ground/air) on UDP to be paid the same per diem rate. He feels that no Marine should have to take a pay cut while on the UDP (i.e., married, enlisted Marines). Additionally, it was recommended that MEU Marines, while deployed, be paid the same per diem as those in the normal UDP. This issue should be resolved before the next EOS in May.

MEF Sergeants Major - Currently the three MEF sergeants major do not attend the EOS nor are they voting members of the Sergeant Major Slating Board. It was recommended that they be included in every EOS and be voting members of the Sergeant Major Slating Board.

New Drill Manual - The new drill manual should be ready for the commandant’s signature by August. The new drill manual will also include “fill-in-the-blank” (names and dates) LOIs for change of commands, and post and relief ceremonies.

New Cammies - Currently rifle companies at Marine Corps Bases Camp Pendleton, Camp Lejeune and Okinawa are testing the proposed digital-design camouflage uniform. Following the wear-tests, any needed adjustments to it will be made (i.e., change size and location of pockets, buttons vice fabric fasteners and metal snaps, etc.). The commandant is reviewing a few options on how to implement this uniform to both recruits and enlisted Marines.

The aforementioned topics were not all the topics discussed at the EOS, but were the key ones that I felt we should all be aware of.

Semper Fi.

Ad Space

Marine fights crime, defies gravity

By Cpl. Scott Whittington

CPAO, MCAS Miramar

While other 5-year-old children were playing in the sandboxes across the country, one youngster was practicing for a future in motocross on a farm in Minnesota.

Cpl. William L. Abbott, dog handler, Provost Marshal's Office here, received his first motorcycle from his grandfather as a gift.

Abbott grew up in Hinckley, Minn., on an 88-acre horse farm where he rode his brand new dirt bike through wooded areas, hills and fields.

"I love riding," said the 21-year-old Marine. "It's a way to express yourself. Everyone has his own style and their style is their expression."

Until the age of 12 when he entered his first race, Abbott practiced everyday on his bike. "I was just having fun," said Abbott.

Nervous and anxious, Abbott made his way to the nearby dirt track for his first race. "I had butterflies in my stomach," said Abbott. Although he crashed, he finished.

"It didn't stop me from competing, it just made me want to practice more," said Abbott. "It didn't matter what happened. I was out there to have fun."

The next time Abbott gripped a throttle in competition, he crossed the waving,



Cpl. William L. Abbott, dog handler, Miramar PMO, makes a sharp turn in the desert sand. Abbott has been riding since he was 5 years old and received his first bike from his grandfather. *Courtesy Photo*

checkered flag in first place. "It felt great, but I still wanted to practice," said Abbott. "I wanted more practice so I could continue to win, because winning to me was fun."

Abbott competed in more than 20 races

over the next several years until he enlisted in the Marine Corps in the winter of 1998 and before the end of the month, he was standing on the yellow footprints at Marine Corps Recruit Depot, San Diego. "I wanted a change in my life," said Abbott. "I was bored and wanted something else."

Abbott graduated series honor man, with a meritorious promotion to lance corporal. Upon graduation of Marine Combat Training, he was on his way to Fort McClellan, Ala., for military police school. During the last week of school, he won a board against more than 20 other Marines for a spot at the military-working dog school.

After completing school he arrived here for duty. Abbott and his dog Paco recently returned from the Mexican border where they randomly inspected cars. Together, they seized more than 3,100 pounds of illegal narcotics and he received a Navy Marine Corps Achievement Medal.

After returning from border duty, Abbott met another bike enthusiast at a motocross shop. Since that meeting, Abbott and fellow rider, Warren James, have been getting major air over the hills of California and have become good friends.

The pair have been riding throughout Southern California. "It was really cool to meet

a Marine that was interested in riding," said James.

Abbott loves all types of motorcycles. He owns both a dirt and street bike, but prefers the dirt. "A dirt bike can go more places than a street bike," said Abbott. "Dirt is a lot more forgiving than asphalt when you crash."

Crashing, Abbott said, is a part of the sport. "If you don't love riding, you shouldn't be on a bike," added Abbott. He also said he learns something new every time he rides.

Beginning this spring, this accomplished Marine plans on competing in races again. "I am looking forward to it," said Abbott. "I want to know how I match up to the competition now." He said he hasn't had the means to race until now. He recently purchased a dirt bike from a friend.

Abbott has been practicing his riding and according to James has improved dramatically since they met. James has won several competitions and works for a local motorcycle dealer.

"I think an accomplishment is consistently getting better," said Abbott.

Abbott has come a long way since he was five years old. He has many victories on the track and drug seizures in the Corps. He said his experience in the Corps should help him stay on the right track, using work ethics he learned. When he gets to the finish line, he wants to look back and say he had fun.



Cpl. William L. Abbott, dog handler, Miramar PMO, practiced riding on a horse farm in Minnesota and competed in his first race at 12 years old. *Courtesy photo*

Ad Space

Refuelers take to the friendly skies



By Sgt. A.C. Strong

CPAO, MCAS Miramar

The Marines of Marine Heavy Helicopter Squadron 465 had their re-fueling training down cold – about 5 degrees, to be exact. But it's always cold thousands of feet up, and the crewmembers of HMH-465 won't let a little cold weather stop them from some "good training."

This particular training flight, Maj. Brad W. Brown was the aircraft commander. Maj. Eric S. Weissberger, Capt. Justin J. Ronning, and Capt. Alan R.

Yankowsky were there to get some flight time, practice re-fueling, and get in a little Field Carrier Landing Practice.

"A '53 only holds about 15,500 gallons of fuel," said Ronning, "You can only go about four hours or 600 miles on that. Some missions require us to fly further than our fuel capacity will allow."

"Aerial re-fueling extends your range, therefore your combat capability," said Yankowsky.

"And when you're thousands of feet over the ocean, there's not going to be a gas station to pull into," said Ronning.

So, "The Raiders" from Marine Air



(Left) Sgt. Kevin B. Hall, CH-53E crew chief, HMH-465, watches as the KC-130 Hercules comes into position along the right side of the helo. (Above) Negotiating air pockets, Capt. Justin J. Ronning, CH-53E pilot, HMH-465, attempts "plugging" as he lines up the probe located on the front of his "Super Stallion" with the end of the retractable hose attached to the KC-130 Hercules. Photos by Sgt. A.C. Strong

Refueler Transport Squadron 352 took the gas station to them.

That is where all the training becomes a factor, according to the pilots of HMH-465, as each pilot is required to complete a certain number of "plugs" and landings when not deployed.

"It keeps us ready," said Yankowsky.

During the refueling process, a KC-130 and the "Super Stallion" fly toward each other separated by 1,300 feet vertically and about a half mile apart to the aviation air refueling checkpoint.

The "Hercules" flies past the CH-53E, drops 1,000 feet and come in from behind. The 53 then climbs 300 feet and the pilot positions the aircraft off the side of the KC-130, slightly behind and above. This is called joinup.

Once everyone is stable, retractable hoses come out from the left or right wing as the pilot of the helicopter moves in and attempts to marry up the probe attached to the front of the helo with the hose. The process is called plugging.

"It takes skill and it takes practice," said Ronning, who was one of the first to attempt refueling during this training circuit.

In the early 90's, the necessity for aerial refueling was demonstrated during a non-combatant evacuation operation to Liberia. There was a necessity to fly in and pull out all American citizens and allies from a destabilizing country or area, according to Ronning. Because of the distance, it was necessary to refuel several times.

The mission wouldn't have been possible without air refueling capability, according to the pilots of HMH-465.

The crew on board the KC-130 Hercules and on the helo remain in constant communication during the refueling process.

"For obvious safety and operational

reasons, we stay in contact either through radio or light signals," said Capt. Mike Alvarez, who piloted the KC-130 during the refueling mission.

If that wasn't difficult enough, the pilots are also required to complete the task using night vision goggles. A needle in a haystack might seem easier to find.

"The ability to refuel while in-flight affords us greater over the horizon capability," said Yankowsky.

Using the NVGs causes one's depth perception to be off a little, according to Cpl. Nicholas P. Veltre, CH-53 flight chief.

Coupled with the frigid drop in temperature at those heights, the necessity for constant communication is obvious.

When flying with NVGs, the pilot and co-pilot are expected to observe each other and immediately respond if there are signs of disorientation or vertigo.

It didn't seem to be problem during this training mission however, as each pilot logged in the required practice plugs.

The next part of the training flight took place approximately 130 miles east of San Diego at the old Holtville Airport.

Plainly speaking, these pilots have to be able to land their aircraft on a ship. Field Carrier Landing Practice or FCLP allows them to do this, without all the added dangers, according to the crew.

"It's basically the deck of a ship painted on the ground," said Yankowsky. Pilots are required to practice this a specific number of times prior to going on float, according to Ronning.

More than six hours later, the successful Marines headed home.

"Training missions such as this keep us prepared for real world ops," said Yankowsky.

The "Warhorse" squadron is currently focusing on getting prepared to deploy with the 31st MEU in July.

Ad Space

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Buffalo soldier re-enactor keeps tradition alive



(Above) C.R. "Troy" Walker, a Buffalo Soldier re-enactor, explains frontier life to Anastasia Blagmon, 9, at the exchange. Walker enjoys educating youth about the traditions of the Buffalo Soldiers. (Right) Walker talks to Anastasia about Conestogo wagon trains as Linda Blagmon, Anastasia's grandmother, inspects historical memorabilia. Photos by Cpl. Rob Henderson

By Cpl. Rob Henderson

CPAO, MCAS Miramar

The history of the 9th and 10th U.S. Cavalry Regiments is a classic tale of peril, backbreaking labor, and frontier hardships. It is also an intense study in heroism, commitment to duty, and dedication. These men are historical icons, and now, their traditions are being relived vicariously through Buffalo Soldier re-enactors.

Retired Gunnery Sgt. C.R. "Troy" Walker does his part to ensure the history of the Buffalo Soldiers is not lost in the annals of time. Walker is a Buffalo Soldier re-enactor with B Troop, 10th U.S. Cavalry, who were based out of Fort Whipple, Ariz., between 1885 and 1889.

Walker, a Marine Corps Community Services employee at the gym here, donates his time and personal collection of artifacts to educate children and adults



C. R. "Troy" Walker, a Buffalo Soldier re-enactor, explains the unique uniform prescribed for Buffalo Soldiers. The harness was used to hold the soldier's rifle so the muzzle was slung toward the ground. Photo by Cpl. Rob Henderson

alike in the rigors of frontier life for black soldiers.

"We go wherever there is a child or an adult who is interested in knowing our race's history. Without the Buffalo Soldiers, there would be no blacks going to Montford Point, there would be no Tuskegee Airmen. Our military history really starts with the Buffalo Soldiers," said Walker.

Walker has the experience to speak intelligently on the matter of military history. On top of being a Buffalo Soldier re-enactor, a military artifact collector, and a retired Marine, Walker served three tours in Vietnam, and was awarded the Silver Star, the Bronze Star, and the Purple Heart twice.

"It makes no difference what branch of the services you served in. Be it Army, Navy, Air Force, or Marines — if you're African American, you are a Buffalo Soldier," said Walker, "and the tradition of these men will live on through you."

The traditions include bravery, exploration, and commitment, said Walker. The Buffalo Soldiers were the protectors of the plains regions of the United States. They fought the Cheyenne, Comanche, Kiowas, Apaches, and Mexican revolutionaries to protect the settlers on the frontier. Buffalo Soldiers also explored and mapped vast areas of the Southwest and strung hundreds of miles of telegraph lines.

The Buffalo Soldiers fought bravely against the hostile American Indian tribes earning 21 Medals of Honor for their gallantry. The American Indians had such respect for the 9th and 10th U.S. Cavalry, that they gave them the nickname "Buffalo Soldiers."

"The buffalo was a high symbol to the American Indian. Their life revolved around hunting buffalo, and when cornered, a buffalo would fiercely fight the Indians. When the Indians fought the Buffalo Soldiers, they were so awed by the soldiers fighting fierceness they gave them the name 'Buffalo Soldiers,'" said Walker.

Guarding westbound Conestoga wagon trains from attack by American Indians was one of the Buffalo Soldier's other primary duties. This grueling task usually called for the soldiers to march beside their



horses averaging no more than 15 miles a day, said Walker.

Walker takes part in several annual reenactments of battles Buffalo Soldiers participated in, including the Battle of the Rosebud, Bates Farm, and the End of Trail Ceremony, an annual Wild West extravaganza.

His personal collection of Buffalo Soldier memorabilia includes the bugle from the movie "Sgt. Rutledge," jawbones from a buffalo, and a .50-caliber Sharps rifle, the original issued weapon for Buffalo soldiers.

"What (Walker) does is something that should have been done some time ago to make people aware of our history with the Buffalo Soldiers. It's educational, and for him to take the time to educate people is

really good of him," said A.M. Jefferson, retired petty officer 1st class, who brought his grandson Jordan L. Jefferson, 4, to see Walker's exhibit.

"There is a history that our race of people needs to know. I try to teach them that history so that the memory of the Buffalo Soldier does not die," said Walker.

The harsh life of the Buffalo Soldier will continue to be remembered and respected as long as "Troy" Walker is around.

Walker said their commitment to service was an example for all Americans, and everyone should respect what they did to shape this nation. Walker is doing his part to live by the example and teach by the same.

Ad Space



Jennifer "Jeep" Morse, Oklahoma Chapter member of WMA, presents retired Lt. Gen. Carol A. Mutter, president of WMA, with a piece of 58th anniversary cake.

Photo courtesy CWO-3 Sharon B. Smith

WMA celebrates 58th birthday

By Cpl. Rob Henderson

CPAO, MCAS Miramar

On Feb. 13, 1943, the United States Marine Corps began accepting women in recruit training. Ever since, women have played a large role in shaping the modern Marine Corps.

The Women Marines Association recently celebrated the 58th anniversary of women in the Marine Corps. The celebration was held in Tulsa, Okla., and featured notable women Marines throughout the history of the Marine Corps including retired Lt. Gen. Carol A. Mutter and retired Sgt. Maj. Mabel A.R. Otten.

In 1962, the first chapter of the WMA was formed in Washington, to protect the history of women in the Marine Corps. Ten years later in Denver, the WMA was established as a nationally recognized organization for the same purpose of preserving the history of women in the Marine Corps. Today, there are 77 WMA chapters nationwide.

"The WMA exists to protect the history and educate young Marines about what women did to pave the way for us," said CWO-3 Sharon B. Smith, Aircraft Maintenance Officer for Marine Fighter Attack

Squadron 134 here.

The WMA's mission has remained the same, but now the association offers several services to ensure the preservation of the women Marines' history.

The WMA's services include offering scholarships to high school and college students, presenting the Molly Marine Award to an outstanding female recruit in each platoon of recruit training graduates, and contributing time and money to help comfort all hospitalized veterans.

"It is important for the WMA to educate Marines about women in the Marine Corps because there are so few of us. It's good to know why we are doing what we are for the Marine Corps and how we got here," said Smith.

Every two years, the WMA holds a convention to promote the bond between women Marines of every era.

The convention offers women Marines a forum to share stories, ideas and experiences.

During the month of March, designated Women's History Month nationally, it is appropriate for all Marines to remember the sacrifices women Marines have made to strengthen the Marine Corps.

Generals kick off hard-edged Energy Awareness Campaign

By Sgt. A.C. Strong

CPAO, MCAS Miramar

The air station kicked off its Energy Awareness Campaign, yesterday.

Maj. Gen. William G. Bowdon, commander, Marine Corps Air Bases Western Area, and Maj. Gen. Charles F. Bolden Jr., commanding general, 3d Marine Aircraft Wing, met with building managers and energy conservation managers at the event in an effort to ensure maximum support of the campaign. Each stressed the importance of individual effort in dealing with the current energy situation.

"This state and nation are in an energy crisis," said Maj. Gen. Bowdon. "Everyone — Marine, Navy, and civilian — needs to clearly understand that we all need to do our part."

The campaign is an implementation of Executive Order 12902 and Defense Department instruction mandating that, before 2003, the air station will reduce energy use by 30 percent from the baseline set in 1985.

The Public Works Office here has established a four-tiered plan for the campaign.

"A large part of Tier One is simply being prudent," said Maj. Gen. Bowdon. "That means being conscious of how we're using energy and ensuring that we aren't wasting it."

"It's not rocket science," said Mike Plakosh, energy program manager. "When you leave your room, turn everything off. When you leave your office, turn everything off. If you're not using it ... turn it off."

The air station can expect to see a 40 percent rate hike in electric bills for fiscal

year 2002, according to Plakosh.

The money will have to come from somewhere and with funds already allocated by Congress, much of the available funds will come from military construction and repair dollars, according to Capt. John H. Covington, Energy Program Officer and Assistant Public Works Officer.

"What we are looking at is a limited amount of funds," explained Covington. "The individual Marine is going to feel that."

This would affect the individual Marine in a number of ways, not the least of which being quality of life and possibly even accomplishing the mission.

"For our bachelor enlisted quarters, the barracks management funds have already been allocated," said Covington. "If all those funds must be used for utility bills, there will be none left for quality-of-life improvements."

Tiers Two and Three include technology and system improvements such as digital controls and the use of sensors. Both tiers are more geared toward air station and organization projects, according to Covington and Plakosh.

Tier Four would include draconian measures such as removal of air conditioning on specific days or power outages in selected facilities on specific days.

However, with successful implementation of Tiers One through Three, the air station could save approximately \$2.4 million in fiscal year 2003, and never reach Tier Four measures, according to Plakosh.

"It comes down to this: when you talk about taking funds from viable projects that support Marines and possibly affecting the mission, Marines have to understand that we should never jeopardize that. ... never," said Covington.



Tier One of the Energy Awareness Campaign promotes the idea that each Marine should police themselves when it comes to energy awareness, such as in shutting off lights when not in use. Photo by Sgt. A.C. Strong

Ad Space

Youth hoop it up

By Master Sgt. Dwaine Roberts

CPAO, MCAS Miramar

There was plenty of fast-break action during the second week of the Winter Youth Basketball League with teams “facing off” at the Station Gym Saturday.

However, the primary objective was not who won or lost, but a much more important concept according to the Youth Activity Center.

“Our main goal is to teach sportsmanship in our youth-sports programs,” said Lauren Russell, assistant director at the Youth Activity Center here. “The exposure to sports and skill enhancement are also important aspects,” she added.

Accordingly, the youth sports programs lay a foundation for the future by teaching the youngsters the necessary skills to continue and progress as they grow bigger and stronger physically.

The whole activity really evolves around character building and sportsmanship.

One of the games featured Saturday was between the 11-13 year-old Timberwolves and Titans.

It was a fairly evenly matched contest with both teams scoring on fast breaks and second chance efforts.

Timberwolves’ center Chris Tabor and guard Sasha Jimenez were among the standout players during the game.

“Yes the entire team is really playing well together, and they’re getting better

every week,” said Randy Brewer, coach for the Youth Sports Titans.

During the contest the teams play with a regulation-size basketball and the baskets are the normal 10-foot height except for the kids 8 and under.

The younger competitors play with a smaller ball and the goals are lowered to 7-feet high.

During the Titans’ and Timberwolves’ match, the baskets and the basketballs were the same size as those used in the National Basketball Association league where the professional Minnesota Timberwolves went on a recent 11 game winning streak.

Their counterparts here may not be able to match that feat though.

“These kids are really a tight-knit, kick-butt group, and this league gives them a great opportunity and some exposure to sports which they might not have otherwise,” said Robert Dye, coach of the Youth Sports Timberwolves.

In addition to basketball, the Youth Sports Program has other sports activities for youngsters 5-18 years old.

The other sports offered are softball, flag football, soccer and T-ball.

Anyone interested in playing in the league or finding out more information should contact the Youth Activities Center at 577-4136.

Ask for Lauren or Ron Hymas the Youth Sports director.

Chris Tabor, 12-year-old Timberwolves center, goes in for a lay up against the Titan defense Saturday at the station’s gym in the Youth Basketball League. Photo by Master Sgt. Dwaine Roberts



All-Marine wrestling opens floor to women

Story and photo by Sgt. Katesha Niman

CPAO, MCB Quantico

MARINE CORPS BASE QUANTICO, Va. — The All-Marine Wrestling team recently welcomed what could be the first two female wrestlers to be selected to the traditionally all-male team.

1st Lt. Jessica Acosta, 1st Radio Battalion, Marine Corps Base Hawaii, Lance Cpl. Miriam Jenkins, 9th Engineer Support Battalion, Bulk Fuel Company, Marine Corps Base Camp Pendleton, and Lance Cpl. Lisa Bethke, MCB Camp S.D. Butler, Okinawa, Japan, are both competing for a spot on the elite team.

Competition is tough though.

March 1 only 18 of the 42 Marines will be officially selected to the team. Six spots are up for grabs in the women’s weight categories and only Acosta, Jenkins and Lance Cpl. Lisa Bethke are expected to compete for those positions. For those who don’t make the cut, there is room for a few others to be workout partners to the actual

members of the All-Marine wrestling team.

For Acosta and Jenkins, becoming a part of the team would be the opportunity of a lifetime.

Jenkins, who joined the Marine Corps in 1999, said she has loved wrestling since she was first introduced to the sport nearly 8 years ago.

“I love it with a passion,” she said, “I don’t mind giving up my time for it. That’s how you know when someone loves what they do — when they don’t mind giving up time to do it.”

Jenkins said she started wrestling initially because she was “too small” for football, another traditionally all-male sport.

Acosta was a collegiate wrestler at California State University at

Bakersville before she joined the Marine Corps. She has since fallen in love with the sport.

“I love to wrestle because it develops my discipline and defense techniques,” Acosta said. “It teaches you invaluable



1stLt. Jessica Acosta learns firsthand what it takes to be an All-Marine wrestler. Acosta, along with Lance Cpl. Miriam Jenkins and Bethke will become the first females to be selected for the team if they make it through tryouts.

See **Wrestle**, page 11

Ad Space

Web site Links Commissary, Exchange, Pizza Pizzazz

The MCCS Miramar Web site calendar has undergone a few changes. The site now includes a link to the Miramar Commissary and Exchange, the full Pizza Pizzazz menu, and a link to a movie synopses page. Other recent additions include posting MCCS NAF job listings and a page for stationwide “News You Can Use,” making it accessible to family members. Call 577-6365 for details.

St. Paddy’s Day at O’Club

The Miramar Officers’ Spouses’ Club and the Officers’ Club hosts a St. Patrick’s Day Happy Hour and Auction, 4:30 to 7:30 p.m., March 16. Enjoy Irish music by “Healstone,” and bid on great gift baskets including bed and breakfast in Julian; a humidor full of cigars; an Irish-themed basket; a ladies’ luxury basket and Disney tickets for two.

Most Officers’ Club events are open to officers, senior enlisted staff (E-6 and above) in appropriate civilian attire, retirees and DoD civilians (GS-7 and above), their family members and guests. For reservations or more information call 577-4808.

VMFA-531 Gray Ghost Squadron seeks scholarship nominations

Marine Fighter Attack Squadron 531, known as the “Gray Ghosts,” will award one or more \$1,000 college scholarships to the son or daughter of former members of VMF/VMF(N) or VMFA-531.

Scholarship applicants must be the child of a former member of VMF/VMF(N) or VMFA-531 with a gross family income that does not exceed \$47,000 per year. Application packages will be forwarded to nominees.

Nominations should be mailed to:
Colonel Bob Schultz, USMC (Ret.)
105 Lakeside Drive
Havelock, NC 28532

Nomination packages should include a return address and phone number; the full name of the nominee; and the name, grade and social security number of the parent and when he or she served.

The deadline for nominations is April 1.

For more information, contact Col. Schultz at (252) 477-2555.

Circus Chimera opens March 19

The circus is coming here, March 19 and 20. Circus Chimera is a one ring, Euro-style circus, featuring all human performers. Enjoy high-wire and balancing acts set to multimedia special effects, F/X lighting, unforgettable music and more.

The Big Top Circus tent will go up on

the corner of Elrod and Moore avenues, just south of the Commissary parking lot. There will be one show March 19 and two shows March 20.

Disability Advisory Committee meets

MCCS holds their premier advisory committee meeting at the Friendship center, Wednesday, March 7, at 1:30 p.m. The committee will link family members and organizations in an effort to determine what resources and guidance are required to meet the Quality of Life needs of air station family members with disabilities.

This is one of the final items on the list of priorities MCCS set for the EFM Program to take place in coordination with the move from El Toro to Miramar.

Any interested party is encouraged to attend.

Contact Gunnery Sgt. Keating at (858) 577-4098 to reserve a seat.

Multi-Cultural Heritage Day needs volunteers

Think you’ve got talent? Volunteers are needed for this year’s Multi-Cultural Heritage Day, scheduled to take place in May.

Previous events included Spanish dancers, Martial Arts demonstrations, and belly dancers just to name a few.

Event coordinators invite active-duty military, retirees, civil service, family members and civilians to become involved.

For more information, call Donna Ronan at 577-9812.

Nominations sought for SecDef Community Drug Awareness Award

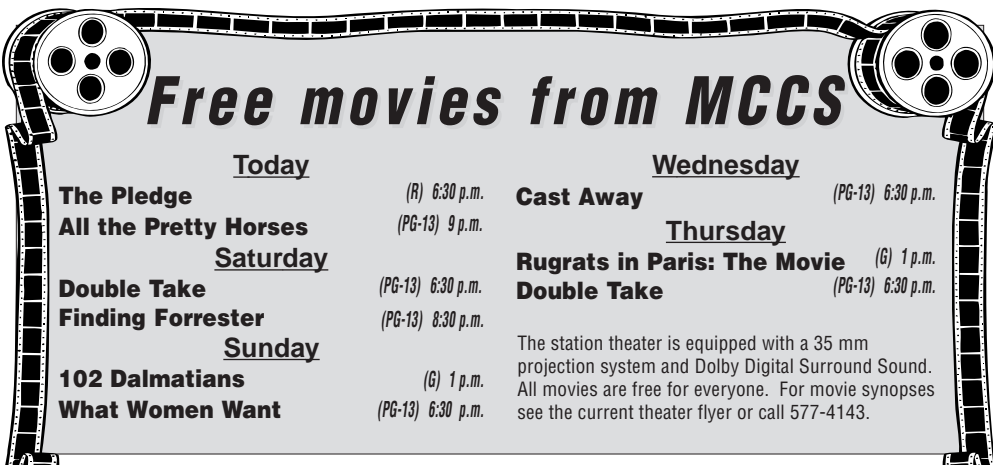
Marine Administrative Message 092/01 announces that the Secretary of Defense Community Drug Awareness Awards program is seeking nominations for consideration of individuals and programs that exhibit enthusiasm and energy in designing and implementing drug-demand-reduction programs that benefit our Corps.

For more information see MARADMIN 092/01 or contact Johnnie L. Hawkins at (703) 784-9526.

NCO Symposium 2001

Are you a noncommissioned officer who wants to be more than just a casual observer? Want to make a difference in our Corps?

The NCO Symposium, scheduled for April 21-25 is looking for motivated NCOs to travel to Headquarters Marine Corps for a discussion group with other NCOs from around the Corps and the Sergeant Major of



Free movies from MCCS

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| <p>Today</p> <p>The Pledge (R) 6:30 p.m.</p> <p>All the Pretty Horses (PG-13) 9 p.m.</p> <p>Saturday</p> <p>Double Take (PG-13) 6:30 p.m.</p> <p>Finding Forrester (PG-13) 8:30 p.m.</p> <p>Sunday</p> <p>102 Dalmatians (G) 1 p.m.</p> <p>What Women Want (PG-13) 6:30 p.m.</p> | <p>Wednesday</p> <p>Cast Away (PG-13) 6:30 p.m.</p> <p>Thursday</p> <p>Rugrats in Paris: The Movie (G) 1 p.m.</p> <p>Double Take (PG-13) 6:30 p.m.</p> |
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The station theater is equipped with a 35 mm projection system and Dolby Digital Surround Sound. All movies are free for everyone. For movie synopses see the current theater flyer or call 577-4143.

the Marine Corps. Nominations should be routed through your unit sergeant major prior to March 20.

Go riding

Miramar Stables has riding instruction available.

The stables are located outside the Main Gate between Kearny Villa Rd. and Interstate 15 and also offer boarding and a feed and tack store.

For more information call 577-4139.

Outdoor Soccer registration

Marine Youth Sports Outdoor Soccer registration is open for children ages 4 through 17.

Sign up is at the Marine Youth Sports Office in the Teen Center March 1 and April 16 and is open to family members of active-duty and retired military and DoD employees.

The season starts April 23.

Out of the age bracket but still interested

in youth soccer? Have you considered coaching?

Contact Ron Hymas, MYS Coordinator at 577-4136.

MMHS seniors need your help

Mira Mesa High School’s senior class is in need of help from local business professionals.

Seniors are required to participate in a senior exhibition in order to graduate. During this exhibit, seniors present to a panel comprised of a teacher, parent and business or community member, how their personal high school experiences fit into future goals.

Many junior-class students will observe on various panels to familiarize themselves with the process for next year.

The senior exhibition is scheduled for May 1, from noon to 3 p.m.

Marines who can offer their help are asked to call Jennifer Kvalvik at 566-2262, extension 161 for more information.

Marine Corps Times to select “Marine of the Year”

The newspaper will honor one Marine each year who best represents the finest qualities of the men and women serving in the Marine Corps.

Four finalists – three runners-up and one grand winner – will be selected after readers of The Marine Corps Times submit nominations. Ballots and voting instructions are currently available in The Marine Corps Times. The winner will be invited to Washington, for a special award ceremony in the Capitol.

The Marine Corps Times will honor the “everyday heroes” of the Marine Corps, whose efforts unselfishly and consistently go above and beyond the call of duty, making a difference in their communities. The Marine of the Year can be someone who assists during a crisis or someone who continuously aids an important cause. Unlike other military honors, the winner will be nominated by his or her peers – not by any official office of the military or government. Nominations are open to all members of the Marine Corps, regardless of rank.

Nominations must be on active-duty, reserve or guard status through June 3. The deadline for submission of nominations is March 26. The names of the four finalists will be publicized in The Marine Corps Times on April 30, and the winner will be announced May 7. The award ceremony on Capitol Hill will be held the week of May 14.

Nominations must include the sender’s name, address, commercial phone number and e-mail address, the nominee’s name, address, commercial phone number, current unit commander’s name, address and commercial phone number. The nomination must also include, in 300 words or less, a description of why the nominee deserves the award, and three names and contact information of people who can verify the achievements of the nominee.

The nominations may be submitted at www.marinecorpstimes.com/nomination, MarineOfTheYearAward@atpco.com, Marine of the Year Award, Marine Corps Times, 6883 Commercial Drive, Springfield, Va. 22159, or by fax at Marine of the Year Award, (415) 648-5296.

Ad Space

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THE FLIGHT JACKET ONLINE:

www.miramar.usmc.mil

LAAD,
continued from page 1

With each approaching villager, the Marines provided security and assisted the civilian with what he or she needed.

Once every hour, the Marines went on patrol through the town. The enemy set up ambushes. Marines knew they were hit because they were wearing the Multiple Integrated Laser Exercise System . A laser from their weapons triggered alarms on their gear. If a member was hit, he had to be carried out as if he were truly injured or killed. The attacks did not always fall on patrols. Using villagers as a distraction, enemy snipers unloaded on Marines outside their command post.

“A lot of the Marines joined for this,” said Smith. “We get to cammie up, get out here and whip it on.”

Two batteries from the battalion were training back to back. Once one had finished, they traded training areas. The last part of the exercise they came together for the live-fire part of Desert Scorpion.

Marines fired a .50-caliber machine gun, which is attached to the Avenger weapons system. They also fired the 240G machine gun, the M-16 A2 service rifle and the M203

grenade launcher. They also threw hand grenades.

The exercise ended Feb. 28. During Desert Scorpion, the Marines were given the chance to see other terrain that someday they may have to fight in.

“It’s better to get more involved in other environments,” said Cpl. Ken C. Thomasma, Stinger gunner, Battery A, 3rd LAAD and Paw Paw, Mich., native. “You never know where the next fight is going to be.

Wrestle,
continued from page 9

skills that some of the other sports don’t.

“At first, I was looking to wrestling to get into shape,” she said, “but then come other skills as well.”

Both Marines said they received a warm welcome from their male counterparts and that they expected nothing less.

“All the other wrestlers are great,” said Acosta. “From the time the trials started, they have been very professional because they respect what we do, and they know we are here to help the team just like they are.”

Master Sgt. Gregory Gibson, assistant coach for the All-Marine Wrestling team, thought it was time for female Marines to try out for the team.

“I think it’s a sign of the times that the (female) Marines are trying out for team,” Gibson said. “The first women’s world wrestling championships were way back in 1989, but the Marine Corps is just now seeing [females] on its team. It’s about time.”

Support from their families is important to the Marines also. Coming from a family of nine kids, Jenkins knows how important family support is. One of her sisters, who is also a Marine, tells her she is her motivation.

“I get a lot of support from my family, especially my sister,” said Jenkins. “I just try to do my best and by doing that, I make them proud.”

“My husband is behind me all the way - both Marine Corps and wrestling wise,” Acosta said. “He likes to see me beat up on other people.”

Although Acosta and Jenkins will be making a mark in the Marine Corps history books as the first female wrestlers on the team, they encourage other women to try

out for wrestling or any other sport that interests them.

“Don’t be afraid!” said Acosta. “No matter what you want to do in life, show that you’re working hard and trying to learn and you will always come out on top.”

Like every other Marine, Acosta and Jenkins are working hard to be the very best they can possibly be. It’s that same drive and motivation that is likely to earn them a spot on the All-Marine Wrestling Team.

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